

# ADL Pilot Project

BY JOHN MITCHELL HENSHAW

**T**HE ANTI-DEFAMATION League of the B'nai B'rith has planted its members on the state and county "human rights" commissions set up under the Civil Rights Act which was enacted to prevent discrimination against Negroes in the buying and renting of homes. Now, having planted its members as chairmen of most of these local human rights commissions, the ADL is trying to convert those official organizations into covert arms of the ADL. A pilot project is the Montgomery County, Md. Commission on Human Rights' current operation against Dr. Francis J. Gist of Bethesda.

Dr. Gist's "crime" was protesting against sex education classes at the Alta Vista Elementary School, which his stepdaughter Lynn Carlon attended during the 1971-72 school year. She has since been transferred by Gist to a private school in Wheaton, Md. Gist also filed two complaints against Alta Vista Elementary School principal Clay E. Brooks, for teaching the sex education courses.

Gist is accused of sending protesting letters and circulars to Alta Vista Parent-Teacher Association and to others in the Maplewood, Md., community. His cardinal sin was accusing radical Jews of sponsoring the sex education program for minors which he linked with the more general drive to spread pornography as a means to undermine Christian morals.

One of the "incriminating" documents distributed by Gist is a copy of the front page article of *Montgomery*

*County Sentinel* entitled: "SCHOOL NURSES COUNSEL PUPILS ON ABORTION." The article states: "School nurses, employed by the County Health Department, are referring local high school students for abortions, pregnancy tests and contraception, in many cases without their parents' knowledge."

Another "incriminating document" of Gist's was a circular that declared: "The Jew's sensitivity training, psychotherapeutic techniques and other experimentation and subversion of our children is being systematically and surreptitiously carried out in our schools. The Jews' subversive textbooks are being used exclusively."

Despite the fact that Dr. Gist took his stepdaughter out of the Maryland public school system and enrolled her in a private school, and no longer filed any protests with the Montgomery County School Board and the PTA, the ADL director, Dr. Jason R. Silverman, and another Jew, Dr. Howard Sloan, president of the Maplewood Citizens' Association, high-pressured the local Human Relations Commission (HRC) to intensively investigate Dr. Gist.

On June 8, 1973 Alan P. Dean, executive secretary of the HRC, served notice on Dr. Gist, stating: "Our office is in receipt of three separate complaints alleging that you are engaged in diverse activities, which are variously cloaked with different names and organizations. It is further alleged that your efforts exhibit a carefully calculated design to inspire prejudice, into-

lerance, and bigotry that may exist on account of race, color, religious creed, ancestry or national origin, resulting in polarizing the community, setting group against group, arousing the ire and temper of the community and creating group tension throughout the area. The attached complaints allege that you engaged in discriminatory practices. It is my responsibility to investigate complaints of discrimination and prejudice in Montgomery County. Therefore, I would like to meet with you immediately to discuss the contents of the complaint."

After intensive investigation no evidence was adduced to show that Dr. Gist had violated any laws. But Silverman insisted on a public hearing by the HRC. The commission was reluctant to hold hearings because it might furnish Dr. Gist a podium to further disseminate "subversive" views.

However, the powerful ADL forced a hearing on July 12 before the eight commissioners. Five of the commissioners were Black and three were White. (*Only ten percent of the population of the county is Negro*). Incidentally, two of the White commissioners were Jewish, including the chairman, a Mr. Hershy. The hearings were recorded by an official court reporter and a lengthy transcript was made of a three hour session at a cost to the taxpayers of about \$800.

The ADL spokesman, Mr. Silverman, led off the hearings with a denunciation of Dr. Gist as a religious bigot who made an appeal to emotion designed to incite violence. He said the ADL had received over one hundred complaints against Dr. Gist from Jews living in the community. The next speaker was another Jew, Mrs. Jerry Raher, president of the Alta Vista PTA, who denounced him for preaching "race hate." She said his purpose was to create tension in the community.

The next speaker was Dr. Howard Sloan, president of the Maplewood

Citizens' Association, who was one of the group who filed an HRC complaint against Gist in August 1972. Sloan said: "We believe the ethical and moral values of our children are jeopardized by this type of material and my own three Jewish children were disturbed. They have read about the pogroms in Europe and were afraid it might happen here."

### Denounced as a Bigot

The last scheduled speaker was Mr. Leonard Rittenberg, owner of the Linden Hill motel and apartment buildings. Rittenberg denounced Gist as a religious bigot and a dangerous menace to the community. He stated that he had shown "some of Dr. Gist's literature" to a psychiatrist who had psychoanalysed it and diagnosed Dr. Gist as a dangerous paranoiac who, if frustrated, could commit violence against, and even murder of Jews.

He would not disclose the name of the psychiatrist in open meeting "because of danger to his life." But if the Commission would hold a closed door hearing, he would have the psychiatrist appear and testify in order that the Commission could determine whether or not it should make a recommendation to subject Dr. Gist to mental observation.

### Soviet-Style Confinement

It might be *apropos* to mention at this point that Gen. Edwin Walker was incarcerated for mental observation at the Federal Mental Hospital at Springfield, Mo. on the strength of a report by a psychiatrist who admitted that he had never seen Gen. Walker but had made his determination on the basis of newspaper clippings and had found Walker to be a dangerous psychopath.

After all the scheduled complainants had testified, HRC Chairman Hershy asked if anyone else wanted to be heard. The Rev. Louie J. Di Placido, pastor of a Baptist church in nearby Wheaton, Md., stepped forward and took the witness chair.

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and U.S. Army Commander General Walter Short. Kimmel has stated that he "can never forgive those who conspired to bring on that tragedy" and that "on the day of judgment they must answer like other criminals."

When Adm. Harold Stark, then Chief of Naval Operations was censured by the inquiry court for not informing Kimmel and Short of the information they had — telling almost to the hour when the Japanese were to strike, he said his conscience was clear: "I acted under higher authority." The only one above him was Franklin D. Roosevelt.

### People Opposed World War II

And this is the political messiah whom some would immortalize in Washington! A national poll had shown that 85% of our people opposed our entry into World War II. Roosevelt had committed us to entry, in his connivings with Winston Churchill. Germany refused to provide FDR with the "cause" so he planned an attack in the Pacific, knew when it was to strike — wanted it to be shocking, so prevented the information being sent to Admiral Kimmel and General Short. A memorial to such a culpable conniver?

Remember also, that when former Pennsylvania governor, George Earle, was FDR's personal envoy in the Balkans and Near East he obtained proof of Stalin's plans for the communizing of all that area. Roosevelt's letter to Earle was made public in which he said "I expressly forbid you to publish the information" and tell the American people of the Soviet designs in which he concurred. Perhaps those words of Franklin D. Roosevelt would be engraved on the memorial?

### Nations Betrayed

Let us not forget the betrayal of the Baltic States, all eastern and central Europe to Stalin's benign brutality — which was done at Teheran and Yalta, by the man the political jobholders

would honor with a "memorial." Also we recall the words before the joint session of Congress — saying the Yalta conference "concerned itself *only* with the European war and not affairs in the Pacific. A deliberate unforgivable *lie* for in his private safe at that moment was the "secret" sell-out of Nationalist China and the "deal" he had made with Stalin at Yalta.

No more perfidious president ever disgraced the Washington scene. A memorial to him? Millions must protest the project.

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The Rev. Di Placido stated: "I am not anti-Semitic. Some of my dearest friends are Jews. I am not defending the views of Dr. Gist. I am here to protest that this public agency, financed by the taxpayers, is conducting an illegal hearing, in flagrant violation of the U.S. Constitution, and is not only trying to suppress Dr. Gist's freedom of speech as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, but is conducting a campaign of harassment against Dr. Gist. You have allowed witnesses to vilify Dr. Gist in a public meeting before an official agency of the Government.

"You have absolutely no authority to conduct this hearing under any law. If Dr. Gist has violated any law it is a matter for the police and the Montgomery County State Attorney's office to handle. If he has purportedly committed a criminal offense and if he has violated the laws on libel and slander, the complainants can file a civil action against him. But certainly the Human Rights Commission has no jurisdiction whatsoever and I think most of you know this as well as I do."

In conclusion the HRC decided to continue its investigation of Dr. Gist and contemplated future hearings which would be announced later.